GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3173
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
GAP BETWEEN SOCIAL GROUPS IN EDUCATION
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government agree that there is a gap between social groups in imparting education;

(b) if so, whether the Government intend to bridge the gap between the social groups and pay more attention to special opportunities for minorities, women, SCs and STs;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard and decided on financial allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): Providing equal opportunities of education to all is a continuous process and constant efforts are being made in this regard. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) and its Programme of Action lays special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalise educational opportunity by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far. The Policyenvisages a well conceived edge in favour of women; focuses on educational development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities to bring them on par with others; provides for suitable incentives for all educationally backward sections of the society, particularly in rural areas and adequate institutional infrastructure for hilly and desert districts, remote and inaccessible areas and islands.

(c) & (d): Several schemes were launched by way of Central interventions primarily for meeting the needs of the educationally backward classes; such as Mahila Samakhya, Area Intensive and Madarasa Modernisation Programme (as renamed); Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools, Free Education for Girls, Scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya for improving literacy among the women belonging to SCs, STs, OBCsand Minorities. Adequate financial provisions are made in the Budget to meet the purpose.